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IN THE NEWS

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Rough roads costing motorists hundreds more per year

Driving on rough roads costs the average American motorist approximately \$400 a year in extra vehicle operating costs. Drivers living in urban areas with populations over 250,000 are paying upwards of \$750 more annually because of accelerated vehicle deterioration, increased maintenance, additional fuel consumption, and tire wear caused by poor road conditions. "Rough Roads Ahead: Fix Them Now or Pay for It Later," a report released by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and TRIP, reports that one-third of the nation's major highways, including interstates, freeways, and major roads, are in poor or mediocre condition. Roads in urban areas, which carry 66 percent of the traffic, are in much worse shape.